

open configuration allows access to the input unit and enables the display screen to be seen;
 wherein a viewing zone is provided in the lid, external to the display screen, so that the mode indicator is visible with the lid in its closed configuration;
 wherein the mode indicator is smaller in size than the display screen;
 wherein said mode indicator is provided to display various operational conditions of said computer in said voice-command state; and
 wherein said electronic unit controls a pointer in order to access verbal commands in various linked partitions of said memory and in sequential locations in said partitions.

8. A portable computer according to claim 7, wherein said mode indicator is able to display time information relating to said verbal commands.

9. A portable computer according to claim 7, wherein said presetting means comprise:

- a PLAY key to play back verbal commands starting from a current location in a selected area of the memory; an FF key to move the pointer quickly forward to subsequent locations in the selected area;
- a STOP key to put the computer into a state of rest, stopping recording or playback of the verbal commands;
- an RW key to move the pointer quickly back to preceding locations in said selected area of the memory;
- a REC key to record a verbal command starting from a current memory location; and,
- a PAUSE key to stop recording or playback of the verbal commands.

10. A portable computer according to claim 9, comprising means within said electronic unit which respond to repeated pressing of said FF key to move said pointer

quickly on to a last location of said selected area of memory.

11. A portable computer according to claim 9, comprising means within said electronic unit which respond to repeated pressing of said RW key to move said pointer quickly back to a first location of said selected area of memory.

12. A portable computer according to claim 9, comprising means within said electronic unit which respond to said PLAY key and said REC key being pressed to overwrite verbal commands on existing recordings, starting from a current location.

13. A portable computer according to claim 9, wherein said mode indicator is provided to display operational conditions selected by said PLAY, FF, STOP, RW, REC and PAUSE keys in said voice-command state.

14. A portable computer according to claim 7, wherein said input unit of said computer comprises a keyboard having a row of function keys (F1-F10) with a set of keys which are operational when said lid is in said open configuration to define suitable operational conditions for said computer in said voice-command state.

15. A portable computer according to claim 14, wherein said function keys (F1-F10) comprise keys which double up for functions of said keys of said presetting means located on said lid.

16. A portable computer according to claim 7, wherein said input unit comprises a row of function keys with a NOTES key which can be actuated for selecting said voice-command state.

17. A portable computer according to claim 7, further comprising a bulk memory (HDU, IC) which can be linked to said electronic unit; and means for accessing said bulk memory; wherein said mode indicator displays a symbol to indicate that said bulk memory is linked to said electronic unit; and wherein said memory for storing verbal commands forms part of said bulk memory.

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